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(54) **Low-molecular pectin, and food and drink which contain low-molecular pectin**

(57) A novel pectinase for degradation a pectin or  
pectic acid is disclosed wherein

(1) the novel pectinase is an endopolygalacturo-  
nase produced from a genus Saccharomyces,

(2) the optimal pH is 4.0,

(3) the stable pH range is 4.0 to 8.0,

(4) the optimal temperature is 45°C,

(5) the enzymatic activity is stable up to 45°C,  
and

(6) the molecular weight is 38,000. A low-molecular  
pectin having a low viscosity and a high solubility  
and maintaining the physiological activity as the  
dietary fiber, and food and drink each of which con-  
tains 0.01 to 50 wt% of the low molecular pectin are  
also disclosed.

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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Place of search <b>THE HAGUE</b>		Date of completion of the search <b>16 March 1999</b>	Examiner <b>Gurdjian, D</b>
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	
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<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons &amp; : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			



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ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
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